FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2020

DAVID LANG’s prisoner of the state
World Premiere Performances by
NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC and MUSIC DIRECTOR JAAP VAN ZWEDEN,
Soprano JULIE MATHEVET, Tenor ALAN OKE, Baritone JARRETT OTT, Bass-Baritone ERIC OWENS

TO BE RELEASED ON DECCA GOLD JUNE 26, 2020
NOW AVAILABLE FOR PREORDER
“I was a woman” Aria Now Available To Stream

The New York Philharmonic and Music Director Jaap van Zweden’s World Premiere performances of David Lang’s prisoner of the state will be released in digital and physical formats on June 26, 2020, on Decca Gold, Universal Music Group’s US classical music label. The album is now available for preorder, and the aria “I was a woman” is now available to stream, at https://deccagold.lnk.to/prisonerofthestate. The release will mark Decca Gold’s sixth New York Philharmonic album.

The New York Philharmonic premiered David Lang’s prisoner of the state in June 2019, conducted by Jaap van Zweden and featuring soprano Julie Mathevet (The Assistant); tenor Alan Oke (The Governor); baritone Jarrett Ott (The Prisoner); bass-baritone Eric Owens (The Jailer); tenors Matthew Pearce and John Matthew Myers, baritone Steven Eddy, and bass-baritone Rafael Porto (Guards); and Men of the Concert Chorale of New York, Chorus Master Donald Nally (Chorus of Prisoners). With a libretto by the Pulitzer Prize–winning composer that self-consciously refers to Beethoven’s opera, Fidelio — and incorporates Machiavelli, Jeremy Bentham, and Hannah Arendt, among other influences — prisoner of the state tells the story of a woman who disguises herself as a prison guard to rescue her husband from unjust political imprisonment. It was co-commissioned by the New York Philharmonic in collaboration with Rotterdam’s de Doelen, London’s Barbican, Barcelona’s l’Auditori, Bochum Symphony Orchestra, Bruges’s Concertgebouw, and Malmö Opera.

Premiered as a fully staged production directed by Elkhanah Pulitzer, prisoner of the state was part of the Philharmonic’s Music of Conscience, three weeks of concerts and events exploring the ways in which composers have used music to respond to the social and political issues of their times.

The New York Philharmonic launched its partnership with Decca Gold in February 2018 with the release of Jaap van Zweden and the Philharmonic’s performances of Beethoven’s (more)
Symphonies Nos. 5 and 7. Subsequent releases include Sing Happy (May 2018), featuring Audra McDonald’s 2018 Spring Gala performance; live performances of Stravinsky’s *Le Sacre du printemps* and Debussy’s *La Mer* (February 2019) from Music Director Jaap van Zweden’s opening weeks; Soloists of the New York Philharmonic (May 2019), featuring concertos performed by Concertmaster Frank Huang, Principal Viola Cynthia Phelps, Principal Flute Robert Langevin, Principal Clarinet Anthony McGill, and Principal Trombone Joseph Alessi; and the World Premiere performance of Julia Wolfe’s Grammy-nominated *Fire in my mouth* (August 2019).

**Decca Records, US**

Decca Records, US is home to superstar acts such as Andrea Bocelli, Idina Menzel, Lang Lang, David Foster, Riverdance, and more. It is also the proud partner of European sister labels Decca Records, Decca Classics, Deutsche Grammophon, ECM, and Mercury KX. Decca Records, US also encompasses US-based labels Decca Gold and Paragon, which focus respectively on American classical artists such as the New York Philharmonic, Ellen Reid, and Anthony Roth Costanzo, and emerging new voices such as City of the Sun and Lucas Vidal.

**About the New York Philharmonic**

The New York Philharmonic plays a leading cultural role in New York City, the United States, and the world. Each season the Orchestra connects with up to 50 million music lovers through live concerts in New York and around the world, international broadcasts, recordings, education programs, and the New York Philharmonic Leon Levy Digital Archives. In the 2019–20 the Philharmonic and Music Director Jaap van Zweden reaffirm their vital commitments to serving as New York’s orchestra and to championing new music. A resource for its community and the world, the Philharmonic complements its annual free citywide Concerts in the Parks, Presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer, with Philharmonic Free Fridays, its famed Young People’s Concerts, and the Shanghai Orchestra Academy and Partnership. The Orchestra has commissioned and / or premiered works by leading composers from every era since its founding in 1842, including Dvořák’s *New World* Symphony and John Adams’s Pulitzer Prize–winning *On the Transmigration of Souls*, as well as Julia Wolfe’s *Fire in my mouth* (available on Decca Gold). The oldest American symphony orchestra and one of the oldest in the world, the New York Philharmonic has made more than 2,000 recordings since 1917 and produced its first-ever Facebook Live concert broadcast in 2016. During the period when concerts are cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philharmonic is sharing video and audio of performances, free, on its website and social media platforms.

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Major support for *Music of Conscience* was provided by Laura Chang and Arnold Chavkin.

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Programs are made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.
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